



Left: Trombone player, Cpl. Zachary Wendt, plays his part Sunday during the Hawaii International Jazz Festival at Windward Community College in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

A group of men in military uniforms are seated and playing saxophones. The man in the foreground is wearing a tan short-sleeved shirt with a sergeant's rank insignia on the sleeve and blue trousers with a red stripe. He is focused on playing a gold saxophone. Other men in similar uniforms are visible behind him, also playing saxophones. They are under a white tent-like structure.

A large group of people in military uniforms are performing on a stage under a white tent. The performers are seated and standing, playing various instruments including brass, woodwinds, and keyboards. The audience is visible in the foreground, seated in white chairs.

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Big Band plays one of eight songs during their one-hour set at the International Jazz Festival at Windward Community College in Kaneohe, Hawaii, Sunday.

Sailors earn their combat wings

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

Two Sailors assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 recently received Combat Aircrew Wings for flight time in Iraq.

Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph L. Hughes and Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara L. Boshart, both hospital corpsmen assigned to HMH-463, received Combat Aircrew Wings for their participation and dedication during the squadron’s last deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“These are the only two corpsmen in (Marine Aircraft Group 24) that have these wings,” said Navy Lt. Christopher M. Shale, flight surgeon, HMH-463, on the rarity of hospital corpsmen who receive this pin. “I am extremely proud of them. They were willing to do anything that was asked of them out there. I’m also really proud because it showed that we, as medical, we’re doing things outside of our job to help out the squadron.”

In order to have received their wings, both Sailors had to complete the basic casualty evacuation corpsman course, operational emergency medical service course, battlefield trauma and water survival.

In the casualty evacuation corpsman course, both Sailors became familiar with the CH-46E Sea Knight where they became qualified as basic air crewmen. Each course was conducted at Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, Calif., said Hughes, a 35-year-old native of Alpharetta, Ga.

Once in Iraq, both corpsmen had to accumulate a certain amount of points in order to earn their wings, as well as stars added to the wings.

They received three points for



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph L. Hughes and Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara L. Boshart, both hospital corpsmen assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, stand in front of a CH-53D "Sea Stallion." Hughes, a native of Alpharetta, Ga., and Boshart, a native of O'Neill, Neb., both received Combat Aircrew Wings — something not very many corpsmen have earned recently for the work they did while serving with the squadron in Iraq.

every combat mission they flew, two points for every combat flight, and one point for every general flight, and both of them flew approximately 80 hours each while in Iraq.

“All the flight hours are volunteered,” said Boshart, a 22-year-old native of O’Neill, Neb. “We had a (casualty evacuation) call

every day that we were out there. Once you got the call you had to be on the ‘bird’ in less than ten seconds. Everything was just so fast paced at the time, a major adrenaline rush.”

Boshart said this award was very special to her, not only because very few corpsmen receive wings, but also because she is one

of the even fewer female corpsmen to have received it.

“It made it important to me when I found out that even fewer females receive their wings,” she said. “It makes me feel proud to have done what I did.”

Hughes agreed that earning his wings as a corpsman makes them even more important to him.

“Not very many corpsmen even have a chance to earn them,” he said. “It’s just an honor to have been given the opportunity to work with this squadron to earn the wings.”

For more information regarding Combat Aircrew Wings for corpsmen, see Marine Administration message 589/06.

Gunnery sergeant masters degree program

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Tracey Nicholson has the next six years of her life planned out. In a span of four months this year, the gunnery sergeant has herself scheduled to graduate with a master’s degree, complete courses for promotion to first sergeant, and start her doctorate program in forensic psychology.

“At first -- I didn’t think I’d be able to smoothly transition from a master’s to my doctorate’s while going to advanced course,” said Nicholson, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Marine and Family Services, Marine Corps Community Services. “I’m taking more classes just to push to get my master’s degree in May.”

The gunnery sergeant completed the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Degree Completion Program in 2005, a curriculum available for Marines to get their degrees as full-time students.

The program allows anyone ranked as a staff sergeant through master sergeant to obtain the higher education required for performing specialized jobs in the Corps.

“She excels at everything she does,” said Lt. Col. William Perez, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion. “Whatever course she was in at the time, she did well. She was either named as an honor graduate, had the

highest physical fitness rating, or both. She’s able to excel in academics, but she also excels in physical fitness. Not many people can be good in both areas.”

Serving aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Nicholson completed the program with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. After obtaining her degree, the 11-year veteran said she felt encouraged to continue her schooling.

Her ultimate career goal is to work as a forensic psychologist who analyzes patients for the legal system and set up a clinical practice in her hometown of Newport News, Va.

In the meantime, the gunnery sergeant said she’s enjoying working for tech support with Marine and Family Services at MCCC.

Still deciding on which college she wants to attend for her doctorate degree, Nicholson said she is already planning out her doctorate thesis.

After observing the behavior of others during her time in the military, she said she wants to analyze social acceptance in the Marine Corps.

Her interest in the subject came through her observations of other Marines and seeing a need for acceptance during group settings.

“I observed children on the playground doing the



Christine Cabalo

Gunnery Sgt. Tracey Nicholson, pursuing a master’s degree in clinical psychology, holds an inkblot used to diagnose patients. In 2005, Nicholson completed the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Degree Completion Program and earned her bachelor’s in psychology. She is already planning her doctorate’s thesis about social acceptance in the Marine Corps and wants to eventually establish her own clinical practice.

same thing,” she said. “Even though we grow up, we still want to be socially accepted by our peers.”

Her thesis is planned to include comparisons between behaviors of children and adults.

Nicholson said her thesis may cover how the Marine Corps aids in building leadership skills for adults who

may not have been leaders as children.

Nicholson said getting her bachelor’s degree has also helped develop a career path, and Marines who want to be selected for the program should plan ahead.

“Go to college as much as possible prior to applying for the degree completion program,” she said.

“No ands, ifs or buts about it – you have to have 60 credits or at least an associate degree with only 18 months left to get a bachelor’s degree.”

Those accepted into the program can obtain their bachelor’s degree in Accounting, Safety, Psychology, Education, Music, Business Management with emphasis in Accounting,

or Business Management with emphasis in Financial Management. Information about the regulations of the program and how to apply can be found in Marine Corps Order 1560.21D.

“It’s challenging work,” said Perez. “She’s doing an excellent job. Being a Marine and getting a degree are not mutually exclusive.”

America Supports You spotlights team members

Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Beginning Feb. 19, three America Supports You members a week will get the chance to shine when the spotlight swings their way.

Three groups per week will be featured on the Internet at AmericaSupportsYou.mil on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Additionally, the America Supports You E-newsletter will highlight those groups

beginning the week of Feb. 26.

“By featuring three of our nearly 250 home front organizations in-depth each week, America Supports You will provide a closer look at the dedicated Americans who are there sustaining our troops, veterans and their families every day,” Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense and architect of the America Supports You program, said.

“These groups are the heart and soul of America Supports You, and we want to do

everything we can to support them and draw more attention to their great work,” she added.

Each story will offer a look at how the featured group supports the nation’s service members, veterans and their families. Additionally, it will describe how the group’s membership in America Supports You has affected the work it’s doing.

“Featuring individual groups on our Web site and E-newsletter will give these groups additional exposure on a national level so

that other caring Americans wondering what they can do to help support our troops will know exactly where to turn,” Barber said. “That’s what America Supports You is all about, because the more help our home front organizations receive, the more they can do for our troops on the front lines and their families.”

While there is no established order in which the groups will be featured, each will receive notice shortly before its story appears.

Movie review: *The Oscars*



Cpl. Ryan Trevino
Community Relations Chief

Editor's note: Each week Hawaii Marine's own film critic Cpl. Ryan Trevino will provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of a film currently in theaters or one of the many classics of yesterday.

The rating system requires some explanation before you get started. If the film being reviewed is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of "microwaves" on a scale of one to four to rate its "reheat factor."

If the film being reviewed is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to four.

In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.

With the 79th Academy Awards rapidly approaching, I thought I would do something a little different this week.

In recognition of the great and memorable films released during the past year, I'd like to share my personal picks for who will win the major categories.

These categories include: Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role; Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role; and, of course, Best Motion Picture of the Year.

Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role: Forrest Whitaker in "The Last King of Scotland"

Here's why: This is Forrest Whitaker's first Oscar nod in his lengthy, productive career and it is well-deserved. Whitaker is a classic example of how an actor develops over time. Looking back through his long career of filmography, there isn't a noticeable peak like you can see when evaluating the majority of actor's careers. Like a fine wine, he seems to hone his talent with each film he does.

His performance in "The Last King of Scotland" was truly a tour-de-force. Although a good movie on its own, Whitaker's performance as Ugandan mili-

tary leader Idi Amin boosted this film into the limelight. His ability to make an audience love and hate this brutal military dictator at the same time was nothing short of flawless acting. Whitaker deserves this win more than the competition and I think he'll accomplish that Feb. 25.

Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role: Helen Mirren in "The Queen"

Here's why: To start, I must confess Mirren is definitely the underdog in this category, even though her performance in "The Queen" was uncanny. In a category so ripe with talent this year, even a once-in-a-lifetime performance can't be a guaranteed victory.

However, in Mirren's case, this is her second time playing the slightly snobby Queen of England in a film, and this time she's got it down to a science. She also played Queen Elizabeth I in a made for T.V. of the same name. I guess you could say this is her second once-in-a-lifetime performance and may just boost her to the top of the ranks at this year's awards ceremony.

The 61-year-old vet tops off her career with a stunning portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II. Mirren is known for her ability to adapt to every role, but I think she found her true niche in film playing a Queen. She just doesn't act and look like this character, she inhabits her by displaying the talent of transformation other actors can only dream of accomplishing. I hope to see more from her in the future, but with her acting days numbered, this may be her last chance to win her first Oscar.

Best Motion Picture of the Year: "Little Miss Sunshine"

Here's why: This was by far the funniest, warmest, and most-clever film I've watched in awhile. Well written, directed, and acted, this little ray of sunshine had the unusual ability to make you laugh and cry at the same time.

The film started off its "little engine that could" journey at the Cannes and Sundance film festivals winning audience's hearts by the thousands. It was only a matter of time before a major studio (Fox Searchlight) picked up this gem and released it worldwide.

Sadly to say, however, Martin Scorsese's "The Departed" will rain on "Little Miss Sunshine's" parade this year. Although both movies are superb, I believe the academy is looking to really hook up Scorsese this year, due to the fact they have neglected him throughout his career of producing great movies. This will be his year to shine, which is a shame, because "Little Miss Sunshine" should finish out its Cinderella Story with a bang.

Well, those are my predictions for the 79th Annual Academy Awards. What are yours? Send an e-mail to Richard.Trevino@usmc.mil with your picks for any of the categories. We'll see how your picks stack up against mine.



SM&SP

The Putt Putt Masters Mini Golf Tournament at Tiki Island is scheduled to be held Mar. 7 at 11 a.m.

The Price per person is \$15 and includes food, soda, putt-putt fees, and bumper boats.

Register now at the Semper Fit Center.

The deadline for registration is Mar. 5.

Call the SM&SP coordinator at 254-7593 for additional information.

LIBERTY BUS SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule for Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Liberty Bus, which makes trips from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to Waikiki and back every Friday and Saturday. This shuttle service is free and offered to active duty service members only with ID.

Pickup	Drop Off	Pickup Times
Marine Corps Exchange and Enlisted Club	Hale Koa Hotel parking structure*	6:35 p.m. 9:25 p.m. 1:25 a.m.
Pickup	Drop Off	Pickup Times
Hale Koa Hotel	Marine Corps Exchange Annex and Enlisted Club	7:50 p.m. Midnight 3 a.m.

*The pickup location in Waikiki is located across the street from the Hale Koa Hotel near the vehicle entrance to the parking structure.

ON THE MENU

AT ANDERSON HALL

Friday
Lunch

Pepper steak
Southern fried catfish
Rice pilaf
Potatoes au gratin
Glazed carrots
Simmered black-eyed peas
Cream gravy
Lemon chiffon pie
Chocolate chip cookies
Marble cake with chocolate frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lime/raspberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Southern Meal

Dinner

Roast turkey
Beef pot pie
Mashed potatoes
Buttered egg noodles
Calico corn
Simmered broccoli
Savory bread dressing
Turkey gravy
Cranberry sauce
Desserts: Same as lunch

Saturday
Dinner

Baked lasagna
Chicken parmesan
Spaghetti noodles
Marinara sauce
Italian mixed vegetables
Simmered peas and carrots
Garlic bread
Cherry pie
Ginger molasses cookies
Spice cake with butter cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Strawberry/lemon gelatin

Sunday
Dinner

Barbeque beef cubes
Baked turkey and noodles
Steamed rice
Creole green beans

Simmered cabbage
Chicken gravy
Sweet potato pie
Chocolate chip cookies
Yellow cake with chocolate chip frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Cherry/orange gelatin

Monday
Dinner

Meat loaf
Pork ham roast
Tossed green rice
Mashed potatoes
Peas and mushrooms
French fried cauliflower
Brown gravy
Boston cream pie
Peanut butter cookies
Peanut butter cake with peanut butter cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lime/raspberry gelatin

Tuesday
Lunch

Simmered corned beef w/apple glaze
Honey glazed cornish hens
Parsley buttered potatoes
Rice pilaf
Fried cabbage w/bacon
Simmered carrots
Chicken gravy
Mustard sauce
Blueberry pie
Oatmeal cookies
Strawberry shortcake
Vanilla cream pudding
Chocolate cream pudding
Cherry parfait
Strawberry parfait
Specialty bar: Taco

Dinner

Baked tuna & noodles
Sweet & sour pork
Pork fried rice
Steamed rice
Simmered broccoli

Simmered pinto beans
Turkey gravy
Chow mein noodles
Blueberry pie
Oatmeal cookies
Strawberry shortcake
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Cherry/strawberry parfait
Desserts: same as lunch

Wednesday
Lunch

Five spice chicken
Beef yakisoba
Pork fried rice
Vegetable stir fry
Corn O'brien
Banana cream pie
Oatmeal chocolate chip cookies
Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lime/raspberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Hot dog & sausage

Dinner


Steak smothered w/onions
Southern fried catfish
Mashed potatoes
Baked macaroni and cheese
Southern style green beans
Fried okra
Brown gravy
Desserts same as lunch

Thursday
Lunch

Turkey a la king
Beef stroganoff
Mashed potatoes
Boiled egg noodles
Peas and carrots
Simmered mixed vegetables
Turkey gravy
Peach pie
Cheesecake with blueberry topping
Chewy nut bars
White cake with mocha cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Orange/strawberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Deli

Dinner

Braised liver w/onions
Honey ginger chicken
Chili macaroni
Grilled cheese sandwich
Rice pilaf
Boiled egg noodles
Lyonnaise carrots
Club spinach
Chicken gravy
Desserts same as lunch



MARINE MAKEPONO

HAWAIIAN FOR "MARINE BARGAINS"

AUTOS

2002 Volkswagon Jetta. 80,000 miles; black; new tires, fuel pump and filter; \$7,000 or best offer. Call 479-721-5934.

MOTORCYCLES

2006 Honda CR-85 Dirtbike. Barely ridden, super condition. Leaving island. Gear included. \$3,000 OBO. Call 265-4457.

MISC.

Queen-size blonde maple bed. Comes with mattress and nightstand. \$200, OBO. All gently used. Call 664-3385.

Extra long silver party table. \$25. Solid wood desk with four drawers, excellent condition, \$50. Blue Power Wheels Jeep, like new with battery and charger, \$60. Tan two-seater Power Wheels with two batteries and charger, \$60. Sand and water table, \$20. Round kitchen table, \$25. 92 cubic feet storage shed \$150. All prices negotiable. Call 254-9363.

YARD SALE

Many great items. Feb. 17 from 7 a.m. to noon at 6244B Kaawa St. on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Huge moving sale. Feb. 17

from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 926 Wanaao Road. Furniture, plants, bikes, lawn care items, tools, pageant gowns, household items, toys, and much more. Call 263-4113 for more information.

Ads are accepted from active duty and retired military personnel, their family members and MCB Hawaii civil service employees.

Those interested in advertising must bring a valid DoD-issued ID to the Hawaii Marine Office.

Ads are free and will appear in two issues of Hawaii Marine, on a space-available basis.

Forms may be filled out Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office located in Building 216 aboard Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay.

MOVIE TIME

Prices: Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

Sneak Preview Policy: One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Night at the Museum (PG)
Black Christmas (R)
Charlotte's Web (G)
Rocky Balboa (PG)
Happily N'Ever After (PG)
Night at the Museum (PG)
Black Christmas (R)
Happily N'Ever After (PG)
Children of Men (R)

Today at 7:15 p.m.
Today at 9:45 p.m.
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Friday at 7:15 p.m.
Friday at 9:45 p.m.

MCCS Briefs

www.mccshawaii.com

Feb. 13 - Mar. 10

Register for Spring Adventure Camp with Youth Activities

Program runs weekdays March 20 – March 31.
Open to all military families and DoD dependants.
CYTP Membership of \$25 required for participation. Program fees are based upon a sliding scale
Copies of LES forms and shot records required at time of registration in Building 1090-B from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For information call Virginia Tamura at 254-7610.

Feb. 23

Mardi Gras at Kahuna’s Bar and Grill

Celebrate Mardi Gras Kahuna’s style with food, live music and beads galore at 6 p.m.
Open to E-5 & below and sponsored guests.
For information call Alexis Swenson at 254-7660.

Feb. 24

CSSG-3 Swamp Romp at Boondocker Field

Kick-off race to the 2007 CG’s Semper Fit Series begins at 7 a.m.
Sponsored by MCCS and CSSG-3.
Register at Semper Fit Center or online at www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm by Feb. 23.
For information call Meghan Brophy, 254-7590/91.

Feb. 28

Health, Wellness and Fitness Fair at Semper Fit Center

Learn how to enhance your health and well-being from various companies and MCCS facilities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Open to all active duty, family members and DoD employees.
For information call Jon Shiota at 254-7591.

Feb. 28

Books and Cookies with Chip & Cookie and Wally “Famous” Amos at the Base Library

Enjoy stories read by this very entertaining storyteller and enjoy yummy Chip & Cookie cookies at 3 p.m.
Open to all MCBH families, sponsored guests and DoD employees.
For information call Merri Fernandez at 254-7624.

Mar. 3

Spring Splash Open House at the Base Pool

Join us for the opening of the spring swim season at the Base Pool from 12 to 4 p.m.
Pre-Registration for swim lessons, Jr. Lifeguard information, and introduction to surfing lessons.
Open to all active duty, family members and DoD employees.
For information call Harry Sprague at 254-7655.

Mar. 3

USO Concert at Pop Warner Field

Free USO Concert featuring Gary Sinise, actor from Forrest Gump and CSI: NY, and the Lt Dan Band from 3 to 6 p.m.
Autograph session to follow the concert.
Open to all active duty, family members and DoD employees.
For information call Jon Shiota at 254-7597.

Mar. 6-7

Dad’s Baby Boot Camp and Mom’s Basic Training

Open to all military service members and spouses.
This childbirth education and infant care class prepares expecting parents for labor and delivery, newborn care, safety, breastfeeding and baby care basics.
Next DBBC/MBT session is April 3-4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For information call Bethany Nerheim at 257-8803.

Mar. 7

SM&SP Putt-Putt Masters at Tiki Island

Tiki Island is open to single Marines and Sailors (E-5 & below) for an afternoon of miniature golf at 11 a.m.
Cost of \$15 includes food, soda, bumper boats and prizes.
For information call Jim Cosper at 254-7593.

Mar. 8

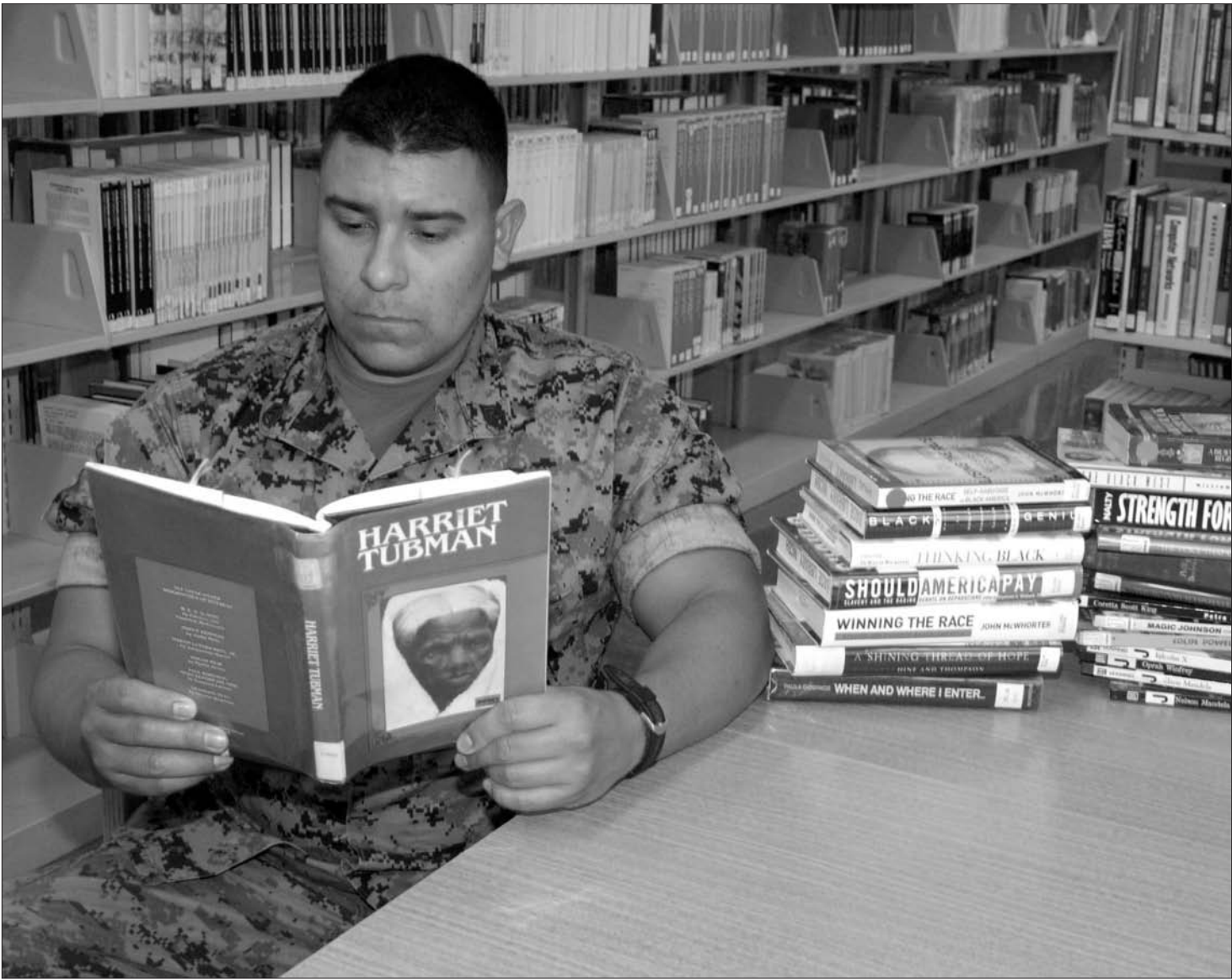
Right Hand Man Night at the Officers’ Club

Show your appreciation for your right hand man with free pupus from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Open to Officers’ Club Members and their sponsored guests.
For information call Don Figueira at 254-7650.

Mar. 9

Island Tour

Meet at Building 216, room 59. Tour from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tour the Island of Oahu, visit the North Shore, Downtown Honolulu, and other places of interest
Open to all active duty and their family members. Reservations required.
Free, no charge.
Next tour is Apr. 13.
For information call Marine & Family Services at 257-7790 or 257-7787.



Christine Cabalo

Staff Sgt. George McGinn III reads from a Harriet Tubman biography as he sorts through books about African American heritage for his cultural reading series. In celebration of African American History Month, the Base Library will host the reading and discussion group in the new media section Tuesdays at 6 p.m. throughout the month of February.

All are invited to join in cultural readings

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

The Base Library has a special cart of books reserved this month for Staff Sgt. George McGinn III, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. In honor of African American History Month, he has dozens of books to choose from for the base’s cultural reading series.
McGinn, equal opportunity representative, 3rd Marine Regiment, said his readings are mainly focused on biographies of famous people in black history. If anyone in the audience is interested, he also looks at political issues facing society such as government policies in ensuring rights. Throughout the month, the staff sergeant will lead these discussions of black history at the Base Library.
“We’re available for anyone who needs space,” said Merri Fernandez, library technician, Marine Corps Community Services. “We try to accommodate everyone and schedule small study groups. We won’t close down the library, but we can offer space to people for group discussions.”
McGinn said the cultural readings discussion focuses on well-known historical figures and may focus on the lives of the 20th century personalities.

“I’m really looking into Harriet Tubman’s life right now,” he said. “Coming from a Hispanic background, her life as a slave reminds me of the harsh conditions indentured servants had to go through in Spanish colonies.”
Tubman, a black abolitionist during the Civil War, escorted more than 300 escaped slaves to freedom. McGinn said he was drawn to her early life, sympathizing at seeing her siblings sold to different families and forced to work as a child. He said he admires Tubman’s determination, because she risked her own freedom to cross into the South 19 times in 10 years.
Her accomplishments were courageous and he was surprised to learn about Tubman’s martial achievements, McGinn said.
The abolitionist served the military by offering intelligence to the Union forces and used her medical skills to fight diseases faced by escaped slaves.
She planned an operation freeing 750 slaves in South Carolina at the Combahee River Landing, according to Kate Clifford Larson in the Tubman biography, “Bound for the Promised Land.”
McGinn said he might discuss the lives of 20th century figures with audiences if there’s an interest.

Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela and Magic Johnson are some of the contemporary personalities whose biographies can be found at the Base Library.
He will be tailoring his cultural readings to the crowd, and said he will be taking requests on discussions of whatever issues audience members may bring up.
“The readings are very interactive,” he said. “I’m trying to keep it very informal, so everyone can join in.”
McGinn said if people can’t come to his cultural readings, they should consider looking through the Base Library’s collection of black history and political rights books. He said sorting through the collection has made him more aware of how discrimination occurs.
“I’ve seen similar struggles in Monterey, Mexico,” McGinn said. “Reading about African American history has been very interesting, comparing what happened in the past and what’s going on now.”
The cultural reading series will be held until the end of February in honor of African American History Month. The Base Library will host the reading series Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the new media section, and admission is free.

New recreation facility opens at Camp H.M. Smith

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — A Maile lei untying ceremony was held to commemorate the grand opening of the Camp H.M. Smith Recreation Center here, Feb. 9. After waiting for nearly a year and half for completion, the Marines now have a place to relax.

The Marines took a tour of what is not only their place to relax and unwind, but also their mess hall, movie theater and more.

The recreation center boasts an array of technological playthings, such as: a variety of gaming systems, a movie theater with surround sound speakers and computers with free Internet access. It also has some familiar recreational toys, including Foosball, pingpong and pool tables. Altogether the new facility cost more than \$600,000 to complete.

“This place has drastically changed from what it used to be,” said Cpl. Edwin Ortiz, an administrative clerk, Camp H.M. Smith. “It’s an impressive change.”

When the Camp H.M. Smith Recreation Center was first closed and stripped for renovations in September 2005, it was a great sign for the Marines, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Walton, plans and operations chief, G-5, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. It meant new furniture, better electronic equipment, a small movie theater and most importantly, new kitchen equipment.

The kitchen was the most significant because the Marines here have no chow hall, said Walton. Without a kitchen, the Marines were left with very few healthy meal options.

Along with everything else the kitchen is up and running and ready for use.

“The kitchen is by far the nicest part of the facility,” said Dan Dufrene, the health promotions coordinator here. “This is good, because it also happens to be the most important.”

There were many reasons behind the construction delays.

The major delay came from a word conflict in the contract, said Gabriela Black, the former Single Marine and Sailor Program coordinator here in an interview last year. In the first draft, the word “renovation” was used. It was determined that it was not a renovation, but a reconstruction. As such, the contract had to be sent back to Headquarters Marine Corps for clarification.

This was something the command said was unfortunate and certainly not something they simply disregarded, according to Col. Mark Dungan, Deputy Commander,



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Brigadier Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and Lance Cpl. Gloria Rojas, administrative clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion, untie the Maile lei at the grand opening of the recreation center at Camp H.M. Smith Feb. 9.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

“I was in communication with Marine Corps Community Services every week to ensure this task was completed as quickly as possible,” said Dungan. “This was a top priority.”

Even after all the bumps in the road, the Marines have what was promised to them and then some.

“It’s a terrific facility,” said Dufrene, also the former SMSP coordinator, here. “It’s going to be a nice addition to the community here.”

The recreation center is available to unaccompanied active duty service members E-5 and below, equivalent Department of Defense civilians and their sponsored guests.

It will be open seven days a week. Hours of operation will be Mondays through Thursdays, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m, Fridays 6 a.m. to 2 a.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sundays 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

“This place definitely beats driving off base to have fun any day,” said Sgt. Wendell Smith, motor transportation chief here. “I know after work I will be here.”



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Sergeant Wendell Smith plays the first game of pool on the new pool tables at the grand opening of the recreation center.

The entire project took a great deal of hard work and a great deal of money, but according to Brig. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, com-

manding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, it’s an important investment.

“We put a lot of burden on our

Marines,” said Brig. Gen. Hummer. “They need a place to recharge and re-sharpen; because our Marines are worth their weight in gold.”

Motorcycle helmets still required for Sailors, Marines

April Phillips

Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

The Naval Safety Center reminds all Sailors and Marines they are required to wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle, both on and off base, even if the state in which they are riding permits them to go without.

This reminder comes because Sailors and Marines stationed in certain states recently may have heard about a proposed change to existing laws that, if passed, would allow riders to forego the helmet on roads considered scenic byways.

Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SW/AW) James Cooke, a traffic/recreational and off-duty specialist at the Naval Safety Center said that, no matter what, Sailors and Marines must wear helmets.

“Bottom line: you have to wear one,” said Cooke. An avid Harley-Davidson rider himself, he said people would be crazy not to make the smart choice when deciding whether or not to wear a helmet.

“It makes a difference. If you don’t have that bucket on your head, you have a better chance of ending up in a coma or dead,” said Cooke.

In fact, there’s a 37 percent better chance of death or significant head trauma compared to those who wear helmets.

So far this fiscal year, seven Sailors and three Marines have died from injuries sustained in motorcycle accidents.

“In the ideal world, there would be zero deaths,” Cooke said.

All military riders are required to attend a free motorcycle safety course in order to ride on base and they can use this information to be safe and responsible motorcycle drivers. Cooke also said that many young riders believe they won’t be involved in accidents because they are careful drivers.

However, it’s often not the person on two wheels who causes the accident.

“Nine times out of 10, it’s someone in a four-wheeled



Sgt. Jeremy M. Vought

Despite proposed changes to existing state laws, Marines and Sailors are reminded they are still required to wear a motorcycle helmet while riding at all times.

vehicle who’s at fault. People who don’t ride often don’t see us. We’re not on their radar scope,” Cooke said.

Dale Wisnieski, a traffic and motorcycle safety specialist at the safety center, said he runs into other myths while giving safety presentations throughout the fleet.

One of the most preva-

lent myths deals with novelty helmets.

Those small, black helmets that only cover the top of the head are usually not enough to save a rider in an accident.

He keeps a novelty helmet once worn by a motorcyclist in his desk drawer, and takes it with him to display during presentations.

“The guy died hitting his

head on a car’s bumper. It didn’t give him the protection a full-face helmet would have,” Wisneiski said.

The helmet didn’t crack. It has barely a scratch on it.

Naval instructions require all military motorcyclists to wear either full-face, 3/4 or 1/2 helmets approved by the

Department of Transportation or the Snell Memorial Foundation.

Wisnieski is also a biker. He said his helmet saved his life once when his bike went down and his head hit the ground.

“In my mind, helmets are something you should want

to put on your head every time you ride,” he said. “Anytime you get on your motorcycle without a helmet, it’s like saying you are willing to die.”

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